

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1196

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary organizations and their remarkable affiliates who work with purpose and conviction to improve the quality of life in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable organization is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), the congregations of which perennially serve communities throughout Tennessee with compassion and generosity; and

WHEREAS, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many Americans found themselves without income and relied upon the bounty of food banks, local congregations of LDS came to the aid of Tennesseans in a significant way, making a real difference in the lives of so many; and

WHEREAS, LDS Tennesseans partnered with various local organizations to deliver food to those who needed it most; in January 2021 alone, in conjunction with the Regional Inter-Faith Association and the Salvation Army, LDS donated 330 turkeys, 1,000 pounds of stuffing, and 500 pounds of yams; and

WHEREAS, local LDS congregants have also recently partnered with Bags of Hope in Lauderdale County, Mayor Denny Johnson in Lake County, the Exchange Club/Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Hope Recovery Center/Women of Hope Medon, Helping Hand of Humboldt, and Blessing Boxes of Jackson/Madison County to provide food for Tennessee families; and

WHEREAS, these same congregants came to the aid of Tennesseans who were affected by natural disasters, joining with First Baptist Church in Lake County in 2021 and the

Weakley County Emergency Management Association in 2022 for disaster relief efforts, providing essential food, personal hygiene, and cleaning items to those in acute, dire need; and

WHEREAS, the good work executed by LDS was successful in large part due to the contributions of Jason Bates of Jackson, Scott K. Canfield of Memphis, and Bennie Denton of Jackson, all of whom were integral in organizing community donations; and

WHEREAS, LDS and its Volunteer State congregants are committed to the Christ-like tenets of brotherly love and compassionate service, answering the divine call to feed the hungry and extend a hand to those in need; and

WHEREAS, we are privileged to recognize the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for its countless contributions to the well-being of the citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, extending our gratitude for the organization's many benevolent initiatives throughout the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.